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# John Smith Vs. The CIA

You sometimes can judge a man by the enemies he makes. If you can judge an organization the same way, the Central Intelligence Agency may well come out smelling like a rose after its brush with John Smith, American turncoat.

Smith's "memoirs," being published in the Literary Gazette of Moscow, portray him as a spy who came out of the fold. He defected to the Soviet Union, apparently with his mouth wide open and going at top speed. The stories he tells have a James Bond thriller flavor, without the girls.

Smith says he was provided with a suitcase containing two time bombs which was placed aboard the "Kashmir Princess" airliner. The plane, while carrying delegates of the African-Asian conference from Peking to Bandung, Indonesia, in 1955, was lost at sea.

He gave the government newspaper Izvestia an interview in which he aired, once more, the shopworn allegation that "a broad conspiracy in which the CIA was involved" was responsible for the assassination of President Kennedy.

He charged the CIA with murder, bribery and stealing state secrets, and said that four out of five diplomats at United States embassies really are intelligence officers. Smith also said the U.S. Information Service is being used as a front by the CIA. He said that in India, where he worked with the U.S. Embassy, many officials under USIS cover were gathering intelligence about India's leading statesmen and political figures, interfering in election campaigns, hiring local journalists to get distorted information into the local press and paying to put out books "in the desired spirit."

The State Department admits that Smith worked as a code clerk in various embassies, but denies he had any linking with the CIA.

Smith's tales should be viewed against the backdrop of history. Few Americans choose to find "freedom" by "escaping" to the Soviet Union. Few Westerners of any nationality do, for that matter. Those who do are often found to be fleeing from something more personal. His stories also deserve to be weighed against the fact that he said he has a lot more to tell—in a book which he plans to bring out later. Provided, of course, the Kremlin likes it.

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